



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart  
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, March 10, 2006  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson  
614-469-5715  
FAX: 614-469-2200

## **JURY IMPOSES DEATH PENALTY FOR COLUMBUS MAN CONVICTED FOR MURDER OF COLUMBUS POLICE OFFICER**

*Third phase of trial is now concluded*

COLUMBUS - A federal jury here today imposed the death penalty for Daryl M. Lawrence, age 30, of Columbus, who they had previously convicted on February 28, 2006, on three counts of armed bank robbery, one count of attempted armed bank robbery, two counts of brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence, one count of discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, and one count of discharging a firearm that caused the murder of Columbus Police Officer Bryan Hurst.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Stanley Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation Cincinnati Field Division; Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney Ron O'Brien, and Columbus Police Chief James L. Jackson announced the decision returned today before U.S. District Court Judge Gregory L. Frost who presided over the trial that had begun on February 13, 2006.

On February 28, 2006 the jury convicted Lawrence of robbing the Fifth Third bank at 6265 East Broad Street, Columbus while using a firearm on January 21, 2004. He was also found guilty of the August 12, 2004 armed robbery of Key Bank, 33 North Cleveland Avenue, Westerville, and the September 8, 2004 robbery of the Sky Bank at 1800 Bethel Road, Columbus, where he discharged the firearm he used to rob the bank.

In addition to those robberies, Lawrence was found guilty of the January 6, 2005, attempted robbery of the Fifth Third Bank, 6265 East Broad Street, Columbus, during which he murdered Officer Hurst.

"The announcement of the of today's decision from the jury to recommend the death penalty is the result of a difficult and emotional journey for all parties involved," Lockhart said. "This office is grateful to those who did their part in the pursuit of justice for Officer Hurst and the other victims of these horrible crimes."

"The joint effort of the U.S. Attorney and the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office resulted in the successful outcome of this trial. In the end, justice was served and hopefully will act as a deterrent to those who harm the peace officers who serve our community," O'Brien stated.

The public information office for the Columbus Police Department stated, "We are satisfied with the decision announced today by the jury. The penalty fits the crime and we were confident that the jury would render the correct penalty."

Today's decision concluded the third and final phase of the trial. After the verdict was announced on February 28, the jury began a second phase in which the government proved "aggravating factors" which made Lawrence eligible for the death sentence. Aggravating factors specified in the government's notice of intent to seek the death penalty included intentionally killing the officer, creating grave risk of death to additional persons, and committing the offense with expectation of financial gain. The jury found that the aggravating factors had occurred and then began the third phase which is referred to as the sentencing phase. The defense had the opportunity during that phase to present mitigating factors. The jury found that the aggravating factors outweighed the mitigating factors by imposing a sentence of death.

Under federal law, Judge Frost must accept the jury sentence of death. Each of the four bank robbery counts carries a maximum punishment of 25 years imprisonment. The firearms charges carry a total mandatory minimum sentence of 85 years to be served consecutive to any sentence he receives for the robberies. Judge Frost will set an official sentencing date at a later time.

Columbus Police officers arrested Lawrence on January 9, 2005. He has been in custody since his arrest.

Lockhart commended the investigative efforts of the FBI and the Columbus Police. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys David M. DeVillers and Michael J. Burns, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron O'Brien who prosecuted the case.

###